

**Virginia Mining Institute
Mine Rescue Contest - 2009
Written Statement**

I am _____, Superintendent of the Nationally Ranked Coal Company, No. 6 mine. An explosion occurred at this mine several hours ago. We have 4 miners who are unaccounted for.

You are located on the surface at the top of a slope entry where a new mine is being developed underground. The connection between the slope and the ventilation shafts was completed 2 days ago. The temporary exhaust fans used during the shaft development process have been removed from both shafts. The mine was being ventilated with air intaking down both shafts and returning out the exhaust fan located at the top of the slope entrance.

The crew entered the mine at 7:00 am this morning to work on a ventilation change, which required several ventilation controls to be installed. Due to the scheduled work to be accomplished by the missing miners, it was believed they would be located near the North ventilation shaft. However, the mine foreman and one man entered the North ventilation shaft using an escape capsule and explored this area, (point out on map) and the crew could not be located. A caved area was located just outby the regulator in the # 1 entry, a caved area blocked the no. 2 entry and a closed regulator blocked travel in the no. 3 entry. The mine foreman

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did not open the regulator in the No. 3 entry. The two men exited the mine as they had entered. They left both regulators closed. The area traveled by the 2 miners is clear and can be used for ventilation if needed.

The fan is presently off but can be started when needed. When started it will be exhausting and cannot be turned off or reversed.

All electrical power to the underground areas of the mine has been de-energized but is available to the fan and pump switch located near the slope portal.

A Command Center has been established on the surface of the mine and will function to coordinate information and instructions to the team as they work through the mine.

The mine map was updated 2 days ago. A back up mine rescue team is available.

We have a competent lifeline attendant (point out the lifeline attendant). Two blank mine maps, a copy of this statement, and your team's written instructions will be provided you when you are ready to begin work.